by the end of this year, and right up to the Cochin frontier in the course of the next year. The Western Outlet road, connecting the High Ranges with Muvattupuzha, having been irremediably damaged by the unprecedentedly heavy floods of 1099, a new line is being investigated to connect Muvattupuzha with Munnar *via* Mannankandam and Pallivasal adopting the old Valentine trace wherever possible. Two parties are already at work. The Delhi Palace was completed during the year, the total cost up to the end of 1101 being just under Rs. 3 lakhs.

23. The Capital.—General plans for the supply of water to Trivandrum town have been scrutinised and approved, and the work on the preparation of detailed estimates will shortly be undertaken. Orders are under issue for the deputation of a special staff to begin the preliminary work. Enquiries have also been instituted for the provision of electric light and power in Trivandrum.

24. Tank Restoration.—In the Trivandrum taluk, there have been evidences of paddy lands being converted into lands for dry cultivation owing to the deterioration of the storage tanks which irrigated them from time immemorial. As you are aware, a committee had been appointed to investigate the question of minor irrigation in this region. The committee has reported, and after careful consideration orders have been passed approving a scheme which, it is hoped, will react to the advantage of cultivation in this taluk; and, as a matter of fact, restoration of the tanks has actually been begun during the year. The special staff for the investigation and execution of minor irrigation works in the several Divisions is being continued.

25. Railways.—The possibilities of railway extensions throughout the State have already been made public in a memorandum placed on the table of the Legislative Council a few months ago. The railway surveys are proceeding apace. The extension of the line from near Chakkai to the heart of Trivandrum town in the neighbourhood of Chalai has been decided upon, and the work in connection with it will be put in hand very soon. A site for the new station has been selected and plans are ready.

26. Agriculture.—You will see from the Director's Report that the Department of Agriculture continued to maintain the good record it had established by years of research and propaganda. Among its more important activities may be mentioned the continuance of the soil survey of Shertallai, the investigation of the sugar, starch and fibre resources of the State, the practical application of the results of the bio-chemical studies of *kari* and alkaline soils, the preparation of synthetic farm-yard manure and the utilisation of water hyacinth for manufacturing organic manure. It is encouraging to find that there was a decided improvement in the sale of scientific manures, selected seeds and improved implements.

27. Fisheries.—There is a large body of very industrious people along our coasts who are dependent upon fishing and fish-curing for their livelihood. I regret to say that during the past year they suffered considerably owing to very poor hauls of fish. In order to improve their condition it is proposed to open an additional fishery school at Alleppey; and as a preliminary two duly qualified Arayas are being deputed to Calicut and Madras for training in the industries connected with fishing. On their return after training they will be appointed as Head Master and as Technical Instructor in the school. An additional Fishery Inspector has been appointed and the Department of Fisheries has been constituted into three Divisions, each under the charge of an Inspector.

28. Industries.—The activities of the Technical Experts attached to the Industries Department were carefully directed and the enquiries patiently and unostentatiously pursued over a term of years are well-laid foundations upon which there are hopeful signs of the uprising of practicable and serviceable industries. The leather manufactured in the tannery has been reported on favourably. An instructional side is in contemplation. A scheme for the development of the bell-metal industry on a co-operative system by financial assistance and by finding foreign markets has been sanctioned. Proposals for the encouragement of cottage industries are now before the Government.

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